



Postdoctoral Fellow or Research Associate:

Human Dimensions of Coastal Community Response to Marine Hazards and Climate Change

Coastal communities, as well as human activities taking place in the marine environment off all three coasts of Canada, face many hazards – such as oil spills, coastal flooding and the longer-term threats of climate change. As the country with the world's longest coastline, Canada needs a world-leading capability to assess and respond to these hazards and to manage the risks involved. That is the goal of the newly-created Marine Environmental Observation Prediction and Response Network, MEOPAR (www.meopar.ca), which involves researchers, all levels of government, coastal communities, non-governmental organizations and the private sector across the country. MEOPAR is working to improve Canada's ability to manage and respond to risk in the marine environment, through disaster response and risk reduction tools, as well as suitable adaptation measures.

The Position

MEOPAR is currently seeking a suitable highly-qualified individual to fill a two-year position as a Postdoctoral Fellow or Research Associate, working in the research facilities of Dr. Tony Charles at Saint Mary's University in Halifax. The successful individual will undertake research relevant to coastal communities across Canada, focusing on their human dimensions, their vulnerability to marine hazards, and their capacity to adapt and respond to those hazards. The research will contribute across MEOPAR's theme areas, improving our understanding of and capacity to (a) respond to marine disasters, on short time scales of hours to months, and (b) plan for emerging marine hazards, notably in relation to climate change, as these arise on time scales of years to decades.

The research to be carried out will include three components: (i) a cross-Canada (and global) assessment of the state of the art in community-level adaptive capacity and response capability for marine and coastal hazards, (ii) a comprehensive compilation and analysis of relevant data on Canada's coastal communities, leading to insights into 'best practices' and priorities for preparedness, response capacity, and adaptation, both short-term and long-term, and (iii) development and testing of mechanisms for 'rapid appraisal' of spatially-explicit socioeconomic values, vulnerabilities and risks associated with marine and coastal emergencies, including local community-based approaches.

Required Knowledge and Experience

- PhD in interdisciplinary research and/or social science and/or management science, with a high productivity in producing peer-reviewed publications. Preference will be given to those eligible for a Postdoctoral Fellowship.
- Knowledge of the human dimensions of coastal communities, marine social and economic activities, marine and coastal hazards, and climate change.
- A keen interest in synthesizing knowledge globally and especially across hundreds of cases nationally, with suitable experience in qualitative and quantitative data collection and analysis, as well as analytical/synthesizing techniques.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills in English, with capability to communicate with those in various disciplines and in government, communities and the private sector.
- Capability to work in a self-directed manner and in interdisciplinary teams, with excellent multi-tasking skills.

Start Date: As soon as possible after May 15, 2013, and by July 31, 2013 at the latest.

Application Procedure: Applicants should submit a CV, list of publications, statement of research interests, and three letters of reference to John Abraham (ccrn@smu.ca) with "MEOPAR PDF/RA Position" as the subject line. Applications will be reviewed commencing May 15, 2013, continuing until the position is filled.

Additional information: Address enquiries to John Abraham (ccrn@smu.ca).